Philadelphia Theological Institute
Remington and Dover Roads
Penn Wynne, PA 19151

THE CHILD IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: Exploring the Religious Life of Children

Saturday, October 1, 1983
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Church of the Good Shepherd
Rosemont, PA

A conference of the
Philadelphia Theological Institute

THE CHILD IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: Exploring The Religious Life of Children

A conference sponsored by the Philadelphia Theological Institute.

This conference is designed to aid teachers, clergy, religious education directors, and concerned parents in developing or enriching a parish-based and many-faceted approach to Christian education by focusing on the child: the religious experiences and quests of childhood; how children worship and learn; how greater attention to the unique perceptions and enthusiasms of children might enhance the worship and learning of the whole community. The conference format will be lecture presentations and workshops growing out of the lecture themes.

Principle speakers:

Dr. James W. Fowler, Professor of Theology and Human Development and Director of the Center for Faith Development, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. His recent and well received book on faith development is called *Stages of Faith* (Harper and Row).

The Rev. Louis Weil, Professor of Liturgics and Church Music, Nashotah House (Episcopal Seminary). Fr. Weil is a noted authority on children and worship. His article entitled "Children and Worship" appeared in a recent collection of essays called *The Sacred Play of Children* (Diane Apostolos-Cappadona, ed., Seabury Press).

Other presenters:

The Rev. William Duffey, Ed.D., Columbia, M.Div. General Seminary, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Radnor Township, veteran teacher and father of two.

Norma E. Koenig, General Editor *JED Share*, a quarterly journal published by the United Church Press for Joint Educational Development.

Hondi Brasco, M.Div., Yale Divinity School, former religious education director at churches in Virginia and Philadelphia, artist, now living in New York City.

The Rev. Scott T. O'Brien, M.Div., S.T.M., Yale Divinity School, Assistant Rector, Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia.

Ed Stivender, M.A. Theology, Notre Dame University, storyteller and teacher of storytelling at Temple University, co-founder of "Patchwork," a Philadelphia area storytelling guild, and a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Lecture I Dr. James Fowler

The Christian Classic and Children's Growth in Faith: Gifting the imagination of children with the images, stories, and substance of Christian truth.

Workshops (morning):

Children's Questions and the Culture's Images: Strengthening their Ability to Discern. Dr. James Fowler.

The Kingdom through a Child's Eyes: Seeing Children's Art as an Expression of Faith. "I think and then I draw a line around my think." How the arts help children grow in sensitivity to the inner forces at work in their lives and relate to faith development and Christian goals. Norma Koening.

Storytime — Storyspace. A discussion of the several elements that produce the context for sharing the religious vision through storytelling and some suggestions for their successful coordination. Ed Stivender.

Our Original Vision: Recalling Childhood Religious Experiences. Further reflection on a questionnaire to be distributed to all conference participants derived from *The Original Vision: A Study of the Religious Experience of Childhood* by Edward Robinson. The Rev. Scott O'Brien.

Lecture II Fr. Louis Weil

Children and Worship: Exploring issues and opportunities that arise when children participate in the parish's corporate worship.

Workshops (afternoon):

Models for Children at the Eucharist. How children bring their unique spirit, perceptions, simplicity and directness to the Christian family's celebration of God's presence and redeeming love. The Rev. Louis Weil.

Symbols and Imagination: Marking the Liturgical Year for Children. Hondi Brasco.

The "Domestic Church": Helping Parents to Nurture Children in the Christian Faith. The Rev. William Duffey.

Our Original Vision: Recalling Childhood Religious Experiences. Repeat of the morning's workshop. The Rev. Scott O'Brien.

Conference Agenda

Saturday - October 1, 1983

9:00	Registration Coffee and donuts available
9:30	**Morning Session** Participants will have the opportunity to recollect their own childhood religious experiences, and Dr. Fowler will make a major presentation.
11:00	Workshops as described above
12:15	Lunch — Beverages provided for those who bring lunch. A list of local restaurants will be provided.
1:15	Worship. Ed Stivender, storyteller.
1:45	**Afternoon Session** The Rev. Louis Weil will make a major presentation.
2:45	Workshops as described above.
4:00	Conclusion

Child care

Child care will be provided for those requesting it on the registration form.

Registration fees:

Sponsoring Parish: $35.00, which entitles the parish to send two participants. Additional participants from a Sponsoring Parish, $10.00 per person.

Cost is $20.00 per person from a non-sponsoring parish.

This fee includes all conference expenses except lunch. Some scholarship aid is available through PTI for individuals.

The Philadelphia Theological Institute

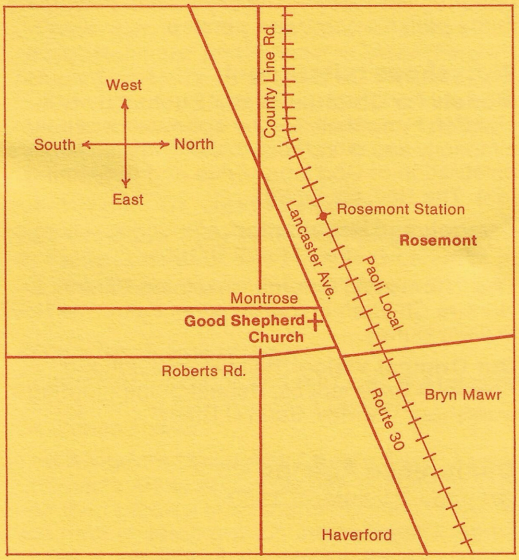
The Rev. James Ransom, Dean
The Rev. Scott O'Brien, consultant
Phoebe Griswold, consultant

The Conference Planning Committee

The Rev. Jack Jessup
Victoria Sicks
Vivian Bennett
Betty L. Creamer, Youth Coordinator,
Diocese of Pennsylvania
Nancy Umfer
The Rev. John Westerhoff,
consultant to the committee

Directions to Church of the Good Shepherd

Lancaster and Montrose Aves., Rosemont, PA



Train: Rosemont station, Paoli local

Bus: Septa bus 71 (to Wayne)

Car: Schuylkill Expressway, Gulph Mills Exit. Take 320 East to County Line Rd. (Note: 320 turns right at Spring Mill Rd). Left on County Line to Lancaster. Left on Lancaster to intersection with Montrose. Church on left. Parking behind church, across Montrose (bank lot), or Municipal Parking (green signs).

Registration Form

Please detach this portion of the brochure and return to the Philadelphia Theological Institute, Remington and Dover Rds., Penn Wynne, PA 19151, 896-8066.

See reverse side for registration fees. Fee covers all conference expenses except lunch. Registrations must arrive by Monday, September 26. Checks (made out to Phildelphia Theological Institute) should, if possible, accompany registration.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____ Check if Sponsoring Parish ☐

Check if child care is needed ☐